

Foreword



The Department of Defense is pleased to provide Congress with this report on the progress and accomplishments of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for fiscal year (FY) 1998. This report meets the requirements of Title 10 of the United States Code, Section 2706.

DoD's commitment to open communication and strong working relationships with stakeholders is advancing the Environmental Restoration Program on many fronts. We are building trust and doing the right thing by including communities, tribal governments, regulators and states as our partners in managing and implementing cleanup actions. During FY98, the Department continued to focus on partnering and cost-effective, timely cleanups. We are also reinventing the way we do business: we entered into a voluntary cleanup agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The first of its kind, under this agreement DoD will achieve permanent remedies years ahead of schedule. We are diligently pursuing similar agreements with other states.

We continue to involve communities in the Environmental Restoration Program and now have 340 installations participating in Restoration Advisory Boards with community representatives. Through the Defense State Memorandum of Agreement Program, the Department is partnering with 50 of the 56 states, territories, and the District of Columbia to accelerate cleanup more efficiently with fewer taxpayer dollars. Also, the Department continues to strengthen partnerships with tribal governments to address land contaminated by our past activities. To date, the Department is a party to six cooperative agreements with tribes. Through some of these agreements DoD will provide training to assist with unexploded ordnance cleanups, creating local community jobs in the process of completing cleanup.

DoD's Environmental Restoration Program continues to make progress. We are addressing more than 27,530 sites at over 10,000 installations and properties – including active, closing, and realigning bases and formerly used defense sites – across the country and in the U.S. territories. As of September 30, 1998, DoD has completed cleanup activities at 58 percent of its sites. In the base closure process, our goals are clear. DoD must complete safe, timely environmental cleanups that include all stakeholders in the process and return land to communities for economic development as soon as possible. In addition, 84 percent of BRAC acreage has all remedies in place and is transferable to the local community. We are “getting done.”

We are ready and experienced to meet the challenges ahead. We are reducing risk to people and the environment, and making progress toward finishing the job of environmental cleanup.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sherri W. Goodman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sherri W. Goodman
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Environmental Security)